67. No fencing work of any kind was done in the Surat Division, but in the Panch Mahals 60 acres were enclosed with wire, to form a plantation, at a cost of Rs. 449.

Civil Suits.

68 The appeal made to the High Court by the *Isáfatdár* of Amgaon in the Váda Range of the East Thána Division against the decision of the District Court in the suit referred to in para. 111 of last year's report was not heard before the close of the year.

69. An original suit against the Forest Department was filed in the District Court of Thána by one Jan Mahamed Allana of Bombay for the recovery of damages amounting to Rs. 1,750 on account of the exclusion of $11\frac{3}{4}$ acres from the area of the coupe for 1890-91 at Kanher in the Bassein Range after its purchase by him. The suit was, however, compromised by payment of the claim under Government Resloution No. 8211, dated 10th November 1893.

Criminal Cases.

70. A forest guard, Vazirkhán Chándkhán, in the Kalyán Range, East Thána Division, was prosecuted for connivance in a theft of timber and was sentenced to two months' rigorons imprisonment, and the sentence was confirmed on appeal.

71. Another forest guard, Náráyan Balwant Khánolkar, in the West Thána Division, was prosecuted for an almost exactly similar offence, with the result that the convicting Magistrate sentenced him to pay a fine of Rs. 50, which sentence was upheld by the Appellate Court.

72. Both these men were of course dismissed and have since been gazetted as ineligible for any Government service.

IMPROVEMENT OF FOREST GROWTH.

(1).—*Natural Reproduction.*

73. Natural reproduction was reported by all the Divisional Forest Officers as fair during the year. In some places fires and grazing are said to have retarded it to some extent. No special cases are recorded from any division.

(2).—*Artificial Reproduction.*

74. In the two Thána divisions artificial reproduction by broad-casting of seed and transplantation of seedlings was confined to the exploited coupes. The results were fairly satisfactory. These cultural operations are partly done by forest guards and partly by paid labour.

75. The regular plantations in the West Thána Division at Deheri, Dáhánu and Persik, which are maintained for experimental and teaching purposes, showed fair results. They contain casuarina, sandal, date, Inga dulcis and other species.

76. The fodder reserves which are situated close to the B. B. & C. I. Railway line in the Máhim Range and which have hitherto been shown as plantations, because it was the custom for many years past to make plantations therein, were during the year finally classed as fodder reserves. These reserves from their situation will always return a far higher sustained revenue and a more urgently required produce yield under grass than they would under timber. Further attempts to produce forest growth in them is therefore deemed undesirable. The existing timber growth, which in places is considerable, will, however, be maintained.

77. In East Thána the small regular plantations undertaken in several places are said to have met with a modified degree of success.

78. In Surat, in addition to the regular transplanting operations in exploited coupes, the plantation near Tithal, referred to in paragraph 130 of last year's report, was continued and towards the close of the year was largely extended, but the results of this operation belong to next year's report.